

§ 17.5

responsibility of the United States for the death or the damages claimed.

(c) *Property damage.* In support of a claim for injury to or loss of property, real or personal, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

- (1) Proof of ownership;
- (2) A detailed statement of the amount claimed with respect to each item of property;
- (3) An itemized receipt of payment for necessary repairs or itemized written estimates of the cost of such repairs;
- (4) A statement listing date of purchase, purchase price, and salvage value where repair is not economical;
- (5) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the injury to or loss of property or the damages claimed.

§ 17.5 Investigations.

The Department may investigate, or may request any other Federal agency to investigate, a claim filed under this subpart.

§ 17.6 Claims investigation.

(a) When a claim has been filed with the Department, the head of the organizational unit concerned or his designee shall designate one employee in that unit who shall act as, and who shall be referred to herein as, the Claims Investigating Officer for that particular claim. When a claim is received by the head of an organizational unit to which this subpart applies, it shall be forwarded with or without comment to the designated Claims Investigating Officer, who shall:

- (1) Investigate as completely as is practicable the nature and circumstances of the occurrence causing the loss or damage of the claimant's property;
- (2) Ascertain the extent of loss or damage to the claimant's property;
- (3) Assemble the necessary forms with required data contained therein;
- (4) Prepare a brief statement setting forth the facts relative to the claim, a statement whether the claim satisfies the requirements of this subpart, and a recommendation as to the amount to be paid in settlement of the claim;

24 CFR Subtitle A (4-1-98 Edition)

(5) Submit such forms, statements, and all necessary supporting papers to the head of the organizational unit having jurisdiction over the employee involved, who will be responsible for assuring that all necessary data has been obtained for the file. The head of the organizational unit will transmit the entire file to the General Counsel.

§ 17.7 Authority to adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims.

The General Counsel, the Deputy General Counsel, and such employees of the Office of the General Counsel as may be designated by the General Counsel, are authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. 2671, and the regulations contained in 28 CFR part 14 and in this subpart.

§ 17.8 Limitations on authority.

(a) An award, compromise, or settlement of a claim under section 2672 of Title 28, United States Code, and this subpart in excess of \$25,000 may be effected only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his designee. For the purpose of this paragraph, a principal claim and any derivative or subrogated claim shall be treated as a single claim.

(b) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised, or settled only after consultation with the Department of Justice when, in the opinion of the General Counsel or his designee:

- (1) A new precedent or a new point of law is involved; or
- (2) A question of policy is or may be involved; or
- (3) The United States is or may be entitled to indemnity or contribution from a third party, and the Department is unable to adjust the third party claim; or
- (4) The compromise of a particular claim, as a practical matter, will or may control the disposition of a related claim in which the amount to be paid may exceed \$25,000.

(c) An administrative claim may be adjusted, determined, compromised, or settled only after consultation with the Department of Justice when the Department is informed or is otherwise